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WLW  
CINCINNATI

# FORTUNES WASHED AWAY

1:15  
P.M. - E.S.T.

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A SERIES OF DRAMATIZATIONS OF BETTER LAND USE.

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No. 164

"GADGETS THAT WORK"

June 14, 1941

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ORGAN THEME: DEEP RIVER.

CAST IN UNISON

We took it for granted that land was everlasting;

We said ownership of the land insured security.

VOICE

Tools would wear out, men would die --

CAST IN UNISON

But the land would remain.

ORGAN: HORROR CHORD.

ANNOUNCER (cold)

Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN: DEEP RIVER

ANNOUNCER

Midway between the Little Miami and the Scioto Rivers lies Highland County, Ohio, where farms and farm life vary with the topography. Here, the rocky gorge of Paint Creek passes through the wild, picturesque "Narrows", land of caves and chasms, cascades and grottoes. Here, the hill people live in leaky, mud-chinked cabins close to their pigs and chickens, or in dingy, unpainted shacks, making a meagre living from meagre soil. But here, too, are some of the finest homes and finest farms in all Ohio, such as the homes and farm of Elmer and Ellis Cook -- the scene of the 164th consecutive episode of "Fortunes Washed Away."



ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

In 1908, Dennis Cook was doing a good job of farming some 200 acres not far from New Vienna. His two sons, Ellis and Elmer, were helping him -- but not at this particular moment. They were engaged in a new discovery....(FADE)

SOUND: Several blows of hammer striking metal...

ELLIS

There! She's all finished, Elmer.

ELMER

Hope it works.

ELLIS

Sure it'll work! Man alive, just think of all the labor it'll save. No more hauling manure through all this mud and slush -- just give the tub a shove and out she goes to the wagon.

ELMER

Well, shall we try it?

ELLIS

Why not? Come on -- let's scoop some of it up.

SOUND: Two men scooping manure and dumping it into tub...

ELLIS

Won't dad be proud of us!

ELMER

Yeah, hope so.

ELLIS

Sure he will.

ELMER

Better not fill it too full until we find out how much weight it'll stand.





ELLIS

Don't worry -- it'll....

SOUND: Creaking...

ELMER

Look out!

SOUND: Loud crashin, of metal, tub, wood, general pandemonium...  
then quiet...

ELMER (SADLY)

Oh, oh.

ELLIS

It was a wonderful idea.

ELMER

Yes, wasn't it.

FATHER (fading in)

Now what in thunderation is going on out here? Well, for the  
life of me...

ELLIS

It didn't work, dad.

ELMER

No, it didn't.

FATHER

What didn't work? What is all this mess of junk? Say, what are  
you two Thomas Edisons up to now?

ELMER

Well, you see, dad...you tell him, Ellis.





ELLIS (BRAVELY)

It was a wonderful idea. A long time ago Elmer and I noticed how many steps we had to make to haul the manure from the stable here out to the spreader. Then the other day when we were in Hillsboro we saw one of those carriers the department store had -- you know, the kind that sends parcels all over the store through the air --

FATHER

Yes, I know...go on.

ELLIS

We got the idea that we could make a manure carrier that would load up here, run along a steel rail, and then dump into the spreader outside the barn. The trouble, as I see it...

FATHER

Was that it didn't work.

ELMER

No, it didn't.

ELLIS

Maybe not, the first try, but I'm going to keep at it until it does!

FATHER

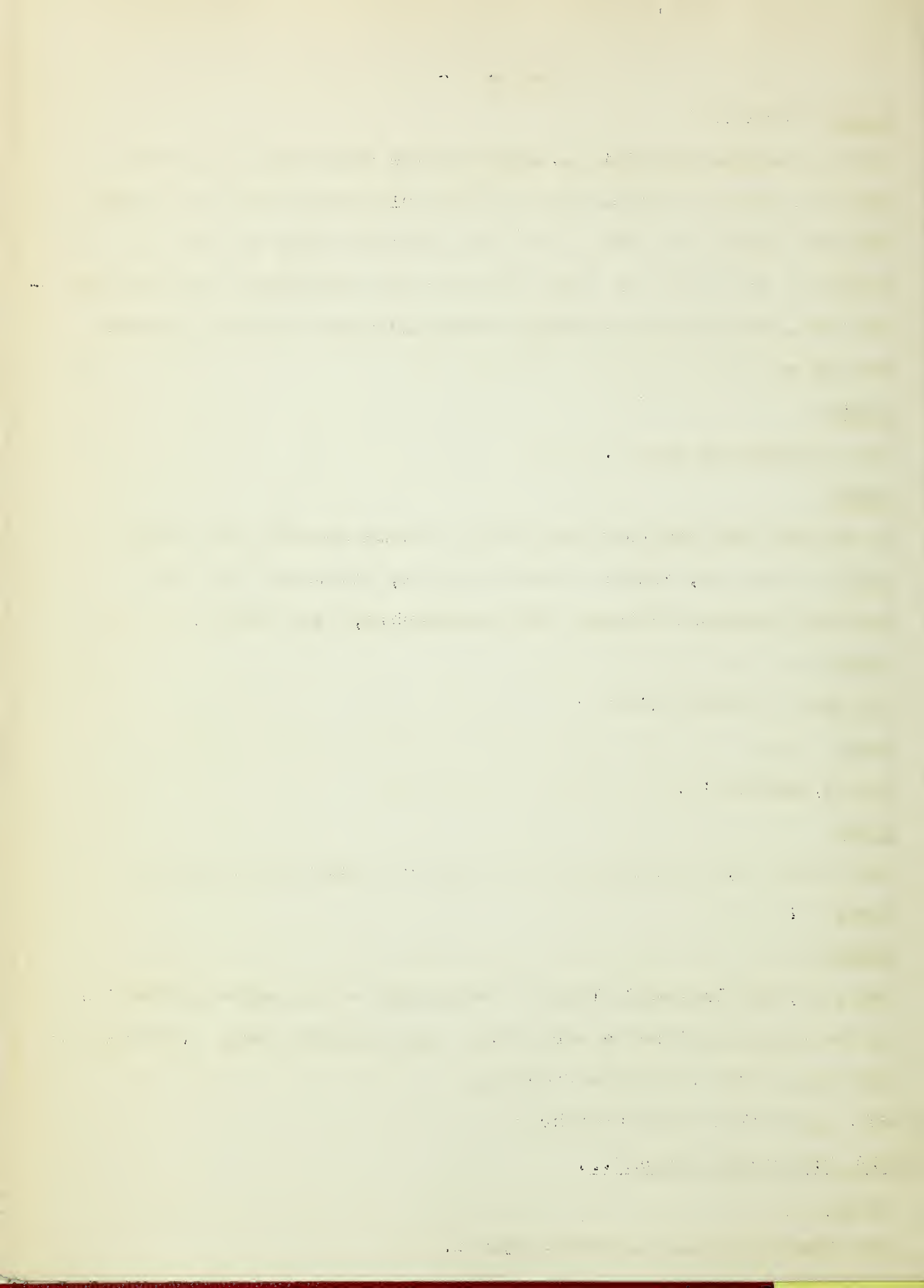
Well, of all the fool notions I ever heard -- no, maybe you're on the right track after all, boys. Again, maybe not. I want to talk to you two boys after supper.

ORGAN: LAZY RIVER (brief bridge)

SOUND: Door opens and...

ELLIS

The chores are all finished, dad.



FATHER

Did you put the milk in the cooler?

ELMER

I put it there.

FATHER

Then sit down. Boys, how would you like to rent this farm -- looking to the day when you can buy it?

ELLIS

Why, I.....do you mean it, dad?

FATHER

Of course I mean it.

ELMER

It'd be the thing I've been hoping for someday. You see, me and Janet have been talking and...

FATHER

Yes, I know. You and Janet, and with Ellis a-courting Mae, you're both thinking of homes of your own.

ELMER

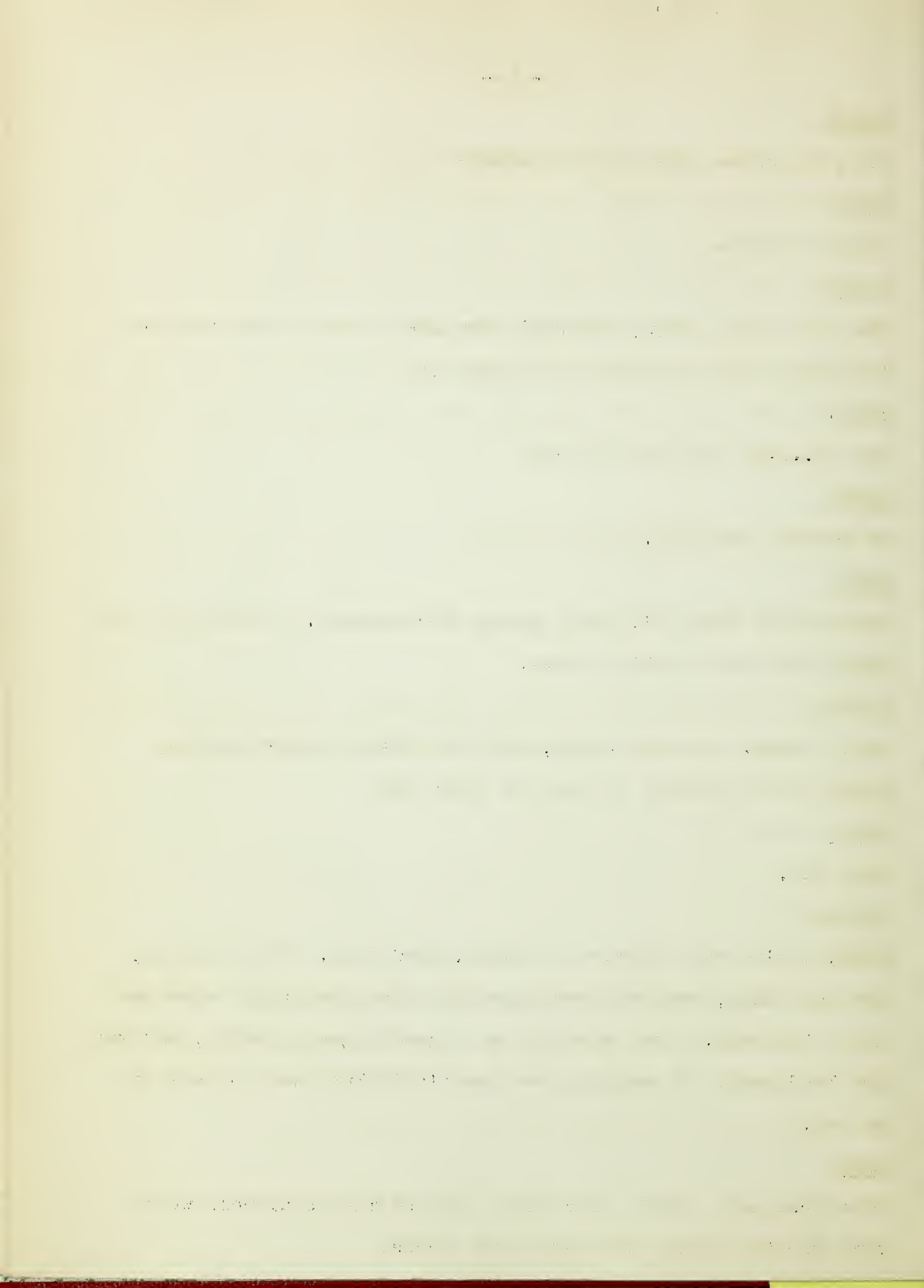
Yes, sir.

FATHER

Boys, you're both farmers at heart, good ones. I've noticed, for one thing, how much you appreciate the good that manure can do to the land. I've tried to be a good farmer, myself, and keep the land good. Of course, last year's failure was no fault of my own.

ELLIS

Of course not? Who'd ever think that so many squirrels would swim the Ohio River and eat up the crops?



FATHER

No one did, but those pesky squirrels almost caused a famine. I'm getting on in years, and I'd like to take it a bit easy. You two are young -- your whole life is ahead of you. And if you want the life of an honest man, if you aren't afraid of work -- and I know you aren't (CHUCKLING) even if you did try to save steps with that passenger-pigeon manure carrier -- if you have the love of the soil and all that it means, farming is the life for you.

ELLIS

That's all I've ever wanted to do.

ELMER

That's how I feel.

ELLIS

But dad -- how would we ever raise the money? You said yourself that twenty-one thousand dollars is what this farm's worth.

FATHER

Did you ever hear of reputation?

ELLIS

Of course.

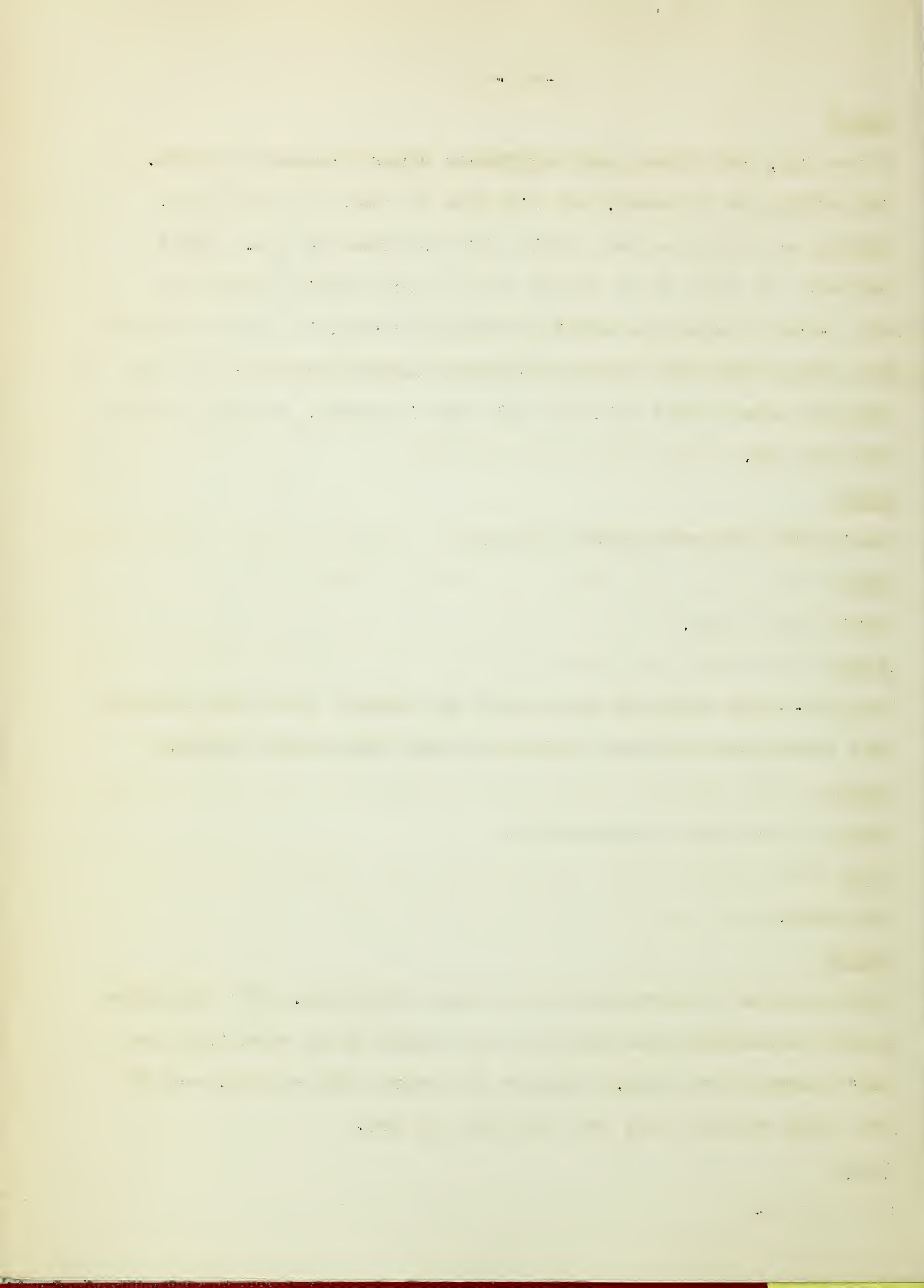
FATHER

My reputation is worth more to me than this farm. You boys have a good reputation, and there's not a doubt in my mind that you can't borrow the money. Suppose you start off renting, and if you build up the farm, you can begin to buy.

ELMER

I'm willing.







ELLIS

It's a go, dad! Gee, you're swell! Why, with our own farm, we can build some gadgets that will...

FATHER

Ellis!

ORGAN: DEEP RIVER (brief bridge).

SOUND: Man crumbling off few grains from ear of corn...

ELLIS (disgustedly)

Look at that corn! Not worth raising!

ELMER

The yield's none too good, all right. Took 45 acres to fill these two little silos. We ought to do better than that.

ELLIS

I hope the banks don't find out just what a pickle we're in. Oh, I've no doubt that we'll come out in the long run. What we've got to do is build up a long-time fertility program that will increase the yields. We'll have to change our style of farming.

ELMER

What about growing some soybeans for hay? They say that new crop is mighty good for building up the soil.

ELLIS

Well, we don't know much about soybeans yet. I read that it's good for putting nitrogen into the soil, but I have an idea that it's also got to be looked into further. Just a hunch. Maybe we ought to go in for more dairy cattle.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem.

2. The second part is devoted to a detailed analysis of the case.

3. The third part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

4. The fourth part is devoted to a discussion of the conclusions.

5. The fifth part is devoted to a discussion of the future work.

6. The sixth part is devoted to a discussion of the references.

7. The seventh part is devoted to a discussion of the appendix.

8. The eighth part is devoted to a discussion of the bibliography.

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10. The tenth part is devoted to a discussion of the summary.

11. The eleventh part is devoted to a discussion of the conclusions.

12. The twelfth part is devoted to a discussion of the future work.

13. The thirteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the references.

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16. The fifteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the bibliography.

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19. The seventeenth part is devoted to a discussion of the conclusions.

20. The eighteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the future work.

21. The nineteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the references.

ELMER

And say, that reminds me...I've got a swell idea for milking. You see, we build a little room next to the stable. Then we build a little runway leading from the stable to the outside stable. Now, when it's milking time, I just pull on a rope, and that opens the door and the first cow comes in, and has to walk up the runway to where I milk her.

ELLIS

But what's to keep her from going on out -- you gonna hold her?

ELMER

I didn't think about that, but...

ELLIS

I have it! Have a pulley fixed so that you can pull a rope and shove the feed-box in front of her to block her off -- then when you're through milking her, pull the rope and the feed-box slides out of the way, she goes on out, and the next cow comes in.

ELMER

Sure!

ORGAN: MONTAGE THROUGH FOLLOWING...

ANNOUNCER

Liming, fertilizing -- the yields go up!

ORGAN: FLURRY

ELMER

Crop rotations -- the yields go up!

ORGAN: FLURRY.

ANNOUNCER

Purebred Jersey cattle -- the yields go up!

ORGAN: FLURRY.

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem. It is shown that the problem is of great importance in the theory of the structure of the atom. The second part is devoted to a detailed analysis of the results of the experiments of Rutherford and his colleagues. It is shown that the results of these experiments are in good agreement with the theory of the structure of the atom.

The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the results of the experiments of Rutherford and his colleagues.

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ELLIS

Farm management records kept carefully -- the yields go up!

ORGAN: FLURRY.

ANNOUNCER

1915, 1918, 1921, 1924, 1930, 1940....but the yields do not go up.

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

SOUND: Rustling of papers....

ELLIS

You can see for yourself, Elmer...the records show it.

ELMER

It's all so strange. Here, at last, we've got the farm paid for. We raised our yields -- remember the time it took 45 acres of corn to fill the silos?

ELLIS

Yes...

ELMER

And now it only takes nine. But here's the point, in spite of the fact that we have better machinery, better seed, better farming methods -- and all these gadgets the neighbors kid us about -- yields suddenly began to remain the same. Why?

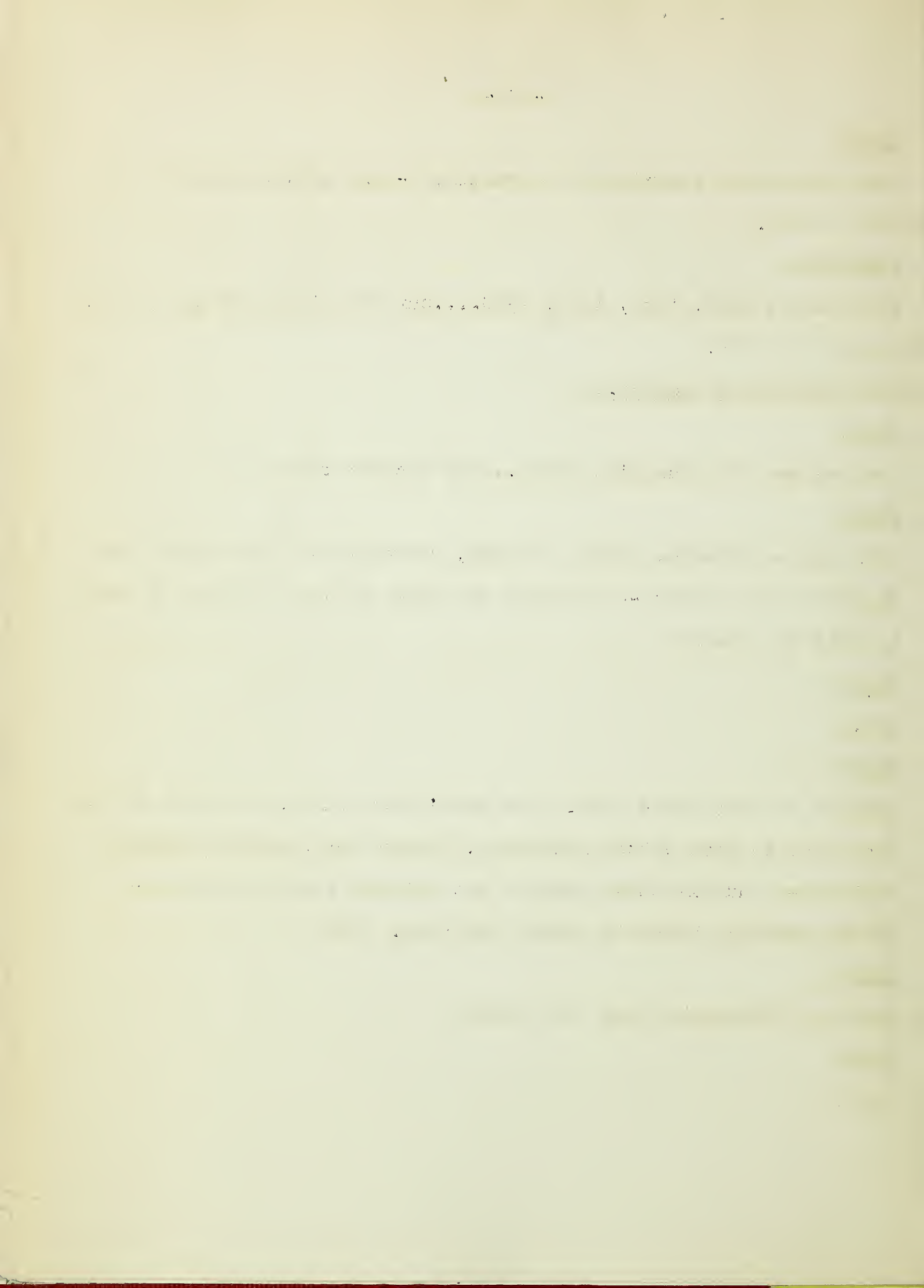
ELLIS

Elmer, I think....I know the answer.

ELMER

What?







ELLIS

All through these years, we've been building up a fertility program. We've built up the soil -- BUT -- we haven't taken into consideration that the soil, no matter how fertile it may be, will wash away, unless you take measures to stop erosion.

ELMER

I begin to see, now.

ELLIS

You remember this fellow Robison?

ELMER

Sure -- from the Hillsboro CC camp.

ELLIS

He told me something that's beginning to stick. He said, maybe you need strip cropping, maybe terracing, maybe both.

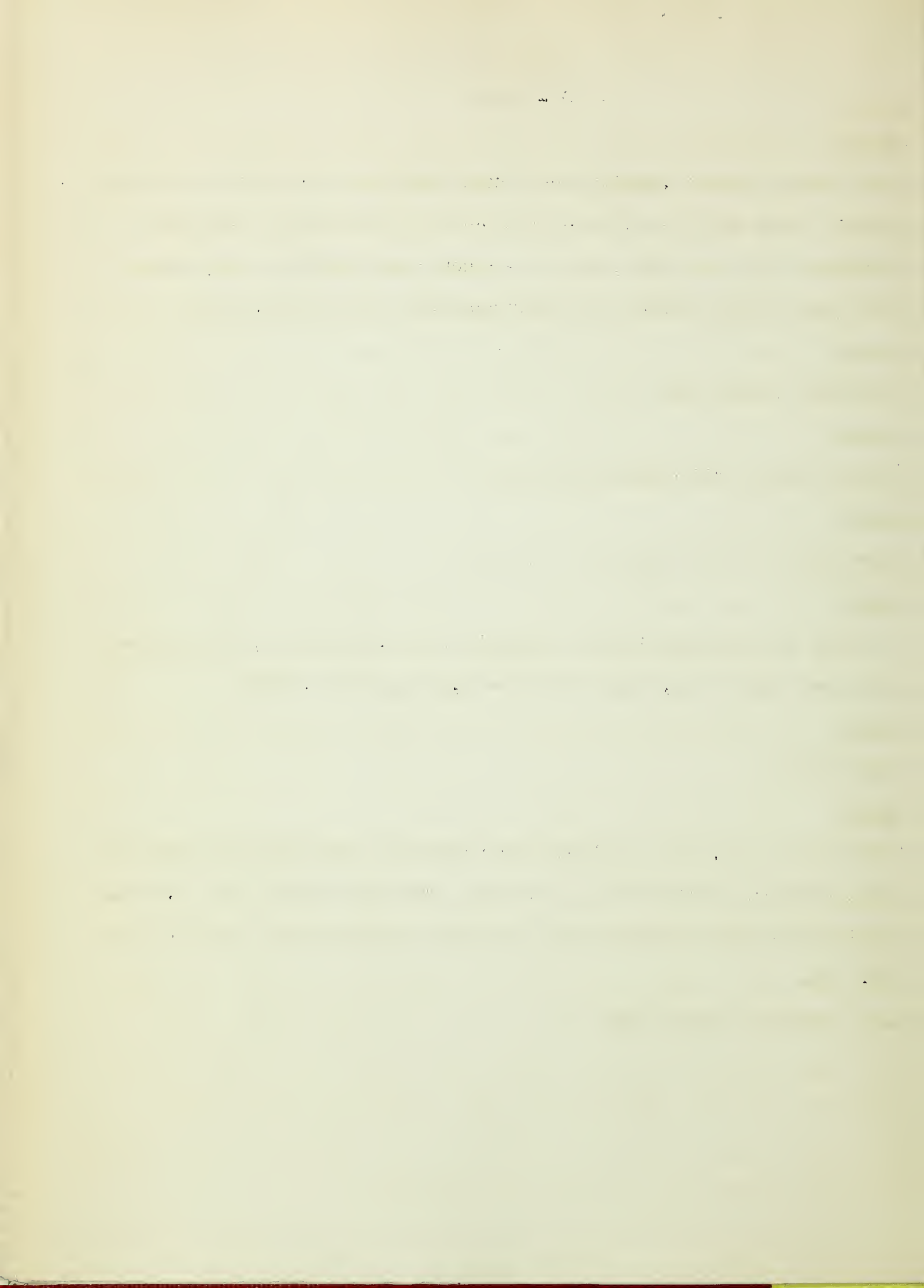
ELMER

Why both?

ELLIS

Here's what he said. Having both terraces and strip cropping is like having a fight with a mad dog. You use a club and a brick. It doesn't matter whether you club him or brick him, just so you get him.

ORGAN: Sneak in LAZY RIVER.



ELLIS

Elmer, we've built up the land, now we've got to protect it. I've got a funny notion, maybe, but I feel that the defense of the soil from within, is just as important as defense of the land from without. Gosh -- don't think me sentimental, but our dad passed this land on to us in good condition. If our country ever goes to war -- or even if it doesn't, we'll need good land, rich land, land that will feed a nation like ours, and nations not quite so fortunate. We can be selfish, and preserve this land for ourselves. But more than all, we should save this soil -- for America.

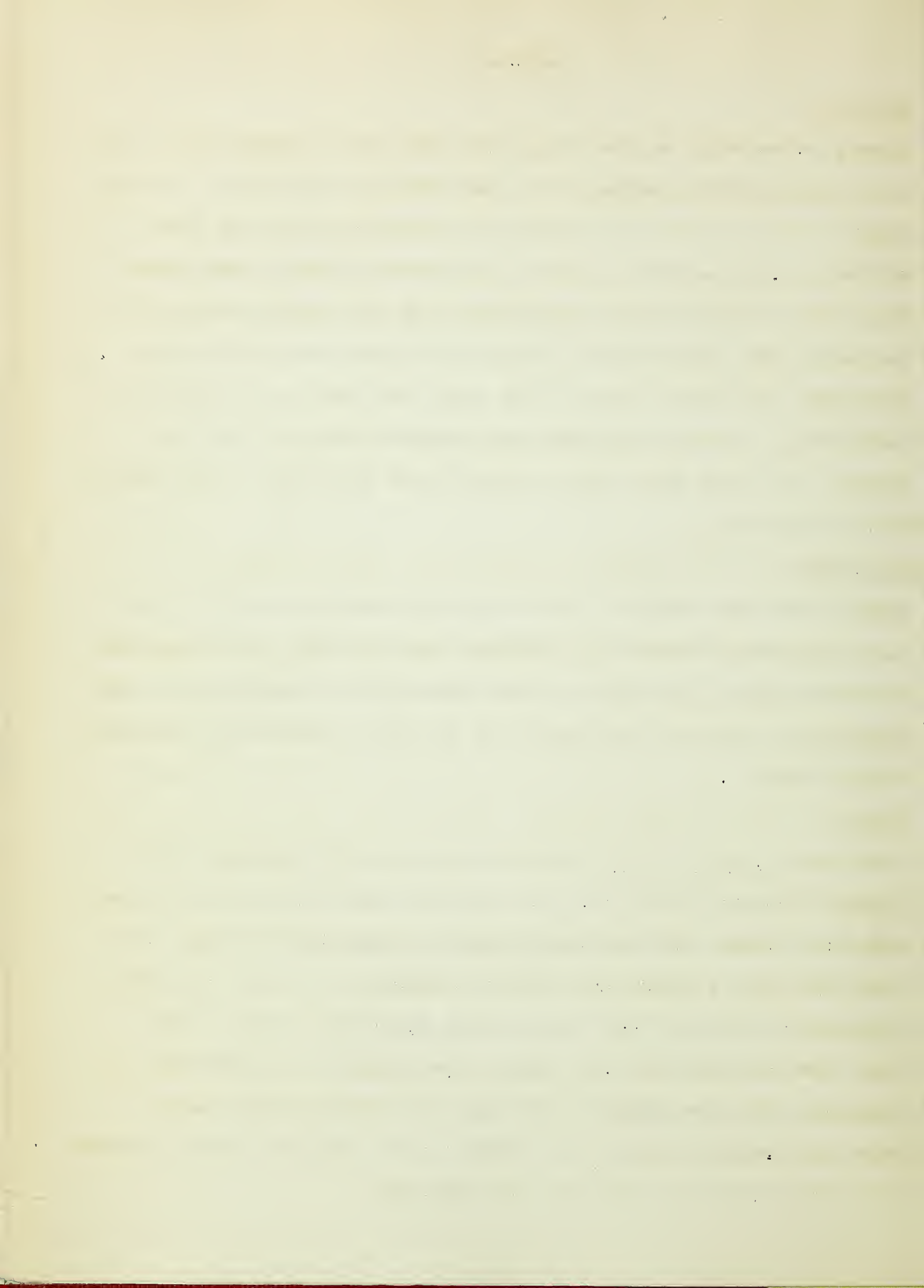
ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

That is the true story of Ellis Cook and Elmer Cook -- E. C. and E. J. to their neighbors in Highland County, Ohio. And now, once again we turn to the United States Department of Agriculture, and here is our perennial spokesman for the Soil Conservation Service, Ewing Jones.

JONES

Item one, \_\_\_\_\_, the Cook brothers did perfect their manure-carrying device, they did perfect their cow-milking scheme, and many another Rube Goldberg gadget -- only theirs work. Item two, they have a swell farm quite in contrast to some farms just about a mile west -- same topography, same soils, but not the same farm management. Item three, they signed a cooperative agreement with the Hillsboro CC camp to prevent further soil erosion. Dwight Robison, or "Robby" as the Highland County farmers know him, helped work out the new farm plan.



ANNOUNCER

And what does that farm plan include, Ewing? I suspect that terracing and strip cropping are part of it.

JONES

You've been peeking, \_\_\_\_\_. But for your further enlightening, let's take an imaginary airplane flight over this 300-acre farm. Ready?

ANNOUNCER

Wait until I get my imaginary goggles on. All set.

JONES

Fine. Here we go.

SOUND: Airplane motor starting, taking off, and droning....

JONES

Now, there's the farm. Nice looking from the air, too. What do you see, \_\_\_\_\_?

ANNOUNCER

First, there's the fine homes and buildings, and the well-kept yard, and what a flower garden? Someone must have done a lot of landscaping there. Then there's a big vegetable garden.

JONES

Both the flowers and the vegetables are the work of the two Missus Cooks. Yes, everyone works there.

ANNOUNCER

There seems to be a lot of cropland, but most of it is in strips. Naturally, they must use a good rotation, although that won't show up from the air.







JONES

The Cook brothers have 110 acres in strip cropping, and all of the crop fields follow a 4-year rotation of row crop, small grain, and two years of meadow. All of this is given regular applications of agricultural limestone and fertilizer.

ANNOUNCER

What are those little green streaks that cut in between some of the strips occasionally?

JONES

Sod waterways. Whenever they come to a depression or natural draw while plowing on the contour, the Cook brothers lift the plow and leave the draws in sod, to keep gullies from starting. And over there are the terraces.

ANNOUNCER

They stand out from the air, don't they -- winding ridges of earth to check soil and water run-off.

JONES

All built by Ellis Cook himself.

ANNOUNCER

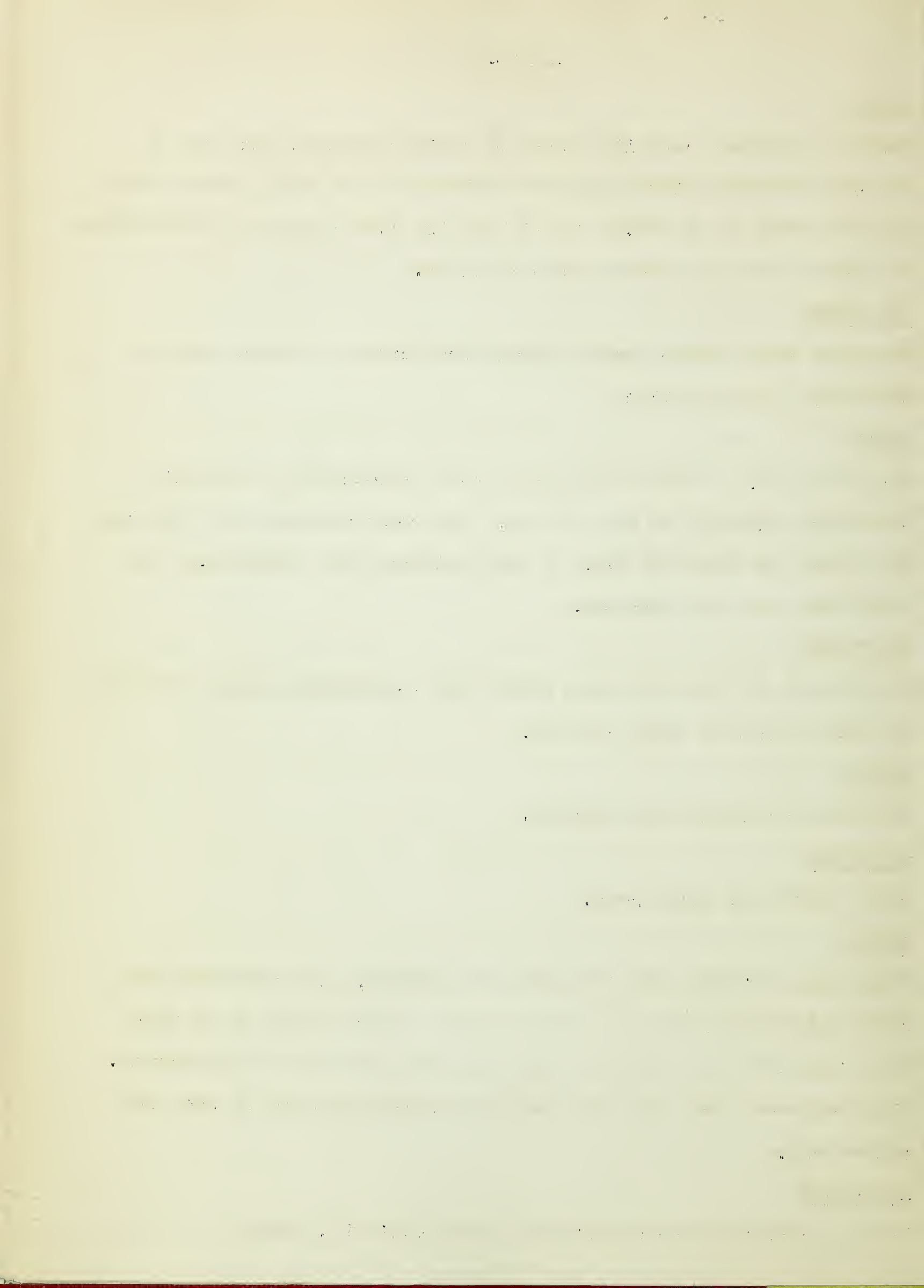
But I don't see many trees.

JONES

They have a little over 15 acres of woodland, all protected from fire and grazing, but you can't see the other little trees that have just been planted for gully control and wildlife protection. Fly back over here in a few years and you'll be able to see them quite well.

ANNOUNCER

Quite a conservation-conditioned farm, isn't it, Ewing?



JONES

Yes, contour cultivation, contour fences, gully control, diversion terraces, protected outlets, stock water reservoir, the result of the work of two men who believe in saving the soil of America -- for America's defense.

SOUND: Airplane drones to ground, engine out....

JONES (on cue)

A real farm, \_\_\_\_\_, and the Cook brothers are real farmers. We need more like them. And now, if you please, the "Eleventh Commandment."

ORGAN: Sneak in DEEP RIVER.

ANNOUNCER

"Thou shall inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or be destroyed from off the face of the earth."

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

